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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/578,785	05/09/2006	Toshiharu Aikawa	40283	8693
52054	7590	03/03/2009	EXAMINER	
PEARNE & GORDON LLP			SOHN, SEUNG C	
1801 EAST 9TH STREET				
SUITE 1200			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
CLEVELAND, OH 44114-3108			2878	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			03/03/2009	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patdocket@pearne.com
dchervenak@pearne.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/578,785	AIKAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	SEUNG C. SOHN	2878	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2,4,6 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 3 and 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 09 May 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>05/09/2006</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed on May 9, 2006 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Drawings

3. Figures 7 and 8 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. ***Claims 1-2, 4 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).***

Regarding claim 1, AAPA shows in Fig. 8 a substrate (105) on which light emitting elements (107) are mounted; a housing which has a front surface (121) having different distances from said substrate; light-emitting-element light guide components (131, 133) which are arranged at positions corresponding to the light emitting elements, and each of which includes a portion to-be-held in a sectional shape becoming smaller toward said substrate; and a holding member which has holding holes adapted to fit the portions to-be-held thereinto, shapes of the holding holes being set so as to differ in accordance with the arrangements of said light-emitting-element light guide components in a light guide direction (Paragraph 6).

Regarding claim 2, AAPA shows in Fig. 8 that each of said portions to-be-held includes a plurality of stages, and that each of said holding holes (123, 125) has a size corresponding to any of the plurality of stages.

Regarding claim 4, AAPA shows in Fig. 8 that each of said portions to-be-held includes a taper portion, and that each of said holding holes (123, 125) has a shape in

which it is held in touch with the taper portion when the light-emitting- element light guide component lies at a predetermined position.

Regarding claim 6, AAPA shows in Fig. 8 that light emission quantities of the light emitting elements (107) are set so as to differ in accordance with the arrangements of said light- emitting-element light guide components in the light guide direction.

Regarding claim 7, AAPA shows in Fig. 8 that the arrangements of the light emitting elements in the light guide direction are set so as to differ in accordance with the arrangements of said light-emitting-element light guide components (127, 129) in the light guide direction.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 3 and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claims 3 and 5 are allowable because the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious, either singly or in combination, comprising, in addition to the other recited features of the claim, "each of said light-emitting- element light guide components includes a base portion, a first stage portion and a second stage portion whose sectional shapes become smaller toward said substrate, that the first stage portion and the second stage portion are provided in said portion to- be-held, that said holding

member has a first holding hole which has a sectional dimension smaller than that of the base portion and larger than that of said first stage portion, and a second holding hole which has a sectional dimension smaller than that of said first stage portion and larger than that of said second stage portion, and that said first stage portion fits into the first holding hole, while said second stage portion fits into the second holding hole."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SEUNG C. SOHN whose telephone number is (571)272-4123. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur, 7:30 AM -6 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, GEORGIA Y. EPPS can be reached on 571-272-2328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

- For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/SEUNG C SOHN/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2878